

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 12, 2004 (Paper No. 33). Claims 1, 3 to 9 and 19 are currently in the application, of which Claims 1, 8 and 9 are the independent claims.

Claims 1, 3 to 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over published EP 0 767 445 (Hidaka). In response, Applicants have made amendments to the claims to emphasize the existing aspects of the claims. No change in the scope of the claims is intended, nor has any change in scope believed to have been effected. As the scope of the claims have not been altered, Applicants submit that entry of the amendments is proper. In addition, the rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

The present invention concerns an image processing method for converting data dependent on a first illuminating light into data dependent on a second illuminating light. The method includes in part: generating a first conversion condition from stored conversion data for a light source having high color rendering properties and from stored conversion data for a light source having low color rendering properties, according to data indicating a proportion of synthesis; and generating a second conversion condition based on white information of the second illuminating light. To convert the data from its dependency on the first illumination light to a dependency on the second illuminating light, the data is converted using both the first and second conversion conditions. The use of two conversion conditions allows color adjustment of an image generated by a first device and rendered on a second device in the presence of ambient light.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method employing stored conversion data for a light source having high color rendering properties and conversion data for a light source having low color rendering properties. A first conversion condition is generated from stored conversion data for the light source having high color rendering properties and from stored conversion data for the light source having low color rendering properties. A second conversion condition is generated based on white information of the second illuminating light.

In contrast, Hidaka fails to disclose Applicants' generation of the first conversion condition using stored conversion data for both a light source having high color rendering properties and a light source having low color rendering properties. Hidaka only discloses use of color temperature or white data. That is, Hidaka merely discloses a method similar to Applicants' method of generating the second conversion condition but does not disclose or suggest Applicants' generation of the first conversion condition. Hidaka is completely silent about the matter corresponding to the first conversion condition in the present invention.

It is possible to confirm mathematically that Hidaka only discloses use of white or color temperature information. Hidaka describes the derivation of the equations it uses to generate color conversion conditions. Color conversions are obtained as shown by equations (4) and (6). The reference white values, X_w , Y_w and Z_w , used in equation (4) are obtained from equation (1). As equation (4) in Hidaka is derived from the von Kreis method represented by equation (3), equation (4) thus corresponds to a color temperature conversion matrix. (Page 8, line 8 to Page 9, line 10). In addition, equation (6) of Hidaka is derived from equation (4). (Page 9, lines 11 to 38). Accordingly, equation (6) also

corresponds to a color temperature conversion matrix. Therefore, equation (1) in Hidaka corresponds to generation of the second conversion condition in the present invention, namely, the color temperature conversion matrix CT.

As discussed above, since Hidaka implements equations (4) and (6) corresponding to the von Kreis method, Hidaka does not disclose a process concerning Applicants' first conversion condition. In representative embodiments, this conversion condition corresponds to Applicants' lighting characteristic matrix, CR, for correction or conversion of color rendering data. Thus, Hidaka is completely silent about the matter corresponding to Applicants' first conversion condition as claimed in the present invention.

With regard to amended Claims 8 and 9, Applicants submit that the foregoing discussion with regard to amended Claim 1 applies equally to amended Claims 8 and 9.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 9, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

Based on the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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